

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of May 1, 2006**

**1. Grant Avenue Entrance to Community Center to Open on Monday Afternoon:**

The entrance to the Takoma Park Community Center nearest the elevator and Council Chambers will open late Monday afternoon, May 8th. The Takoma Park City Council will hold their meeting in the Council Chambers that evening. The elevator will be able to be used again at that time. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

**2. The Parking Lot:** Community Center front parking lot to close Friday, May 12th for one to two weeks. The Community Center parking lot along Maple Avenue will be closed for repair work beginning Friday, May 12th. Parking for handicapped patrons who wish to visit the Takoma Park Police Department will be maintained, but no other parking will be permitted. Other handicapped patrons should park in the designated spaces at the Grant Avenue entrance or in the rear parking lot near the Computer Learning Center or Library. Please bear with us through the month of May while work to our Community Center is completed. We're almost done! Check the City's web page at TakomaParkMd.gov for up-to-date information, as it becomes available. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

**3. Street Restoration (Wards 1 & 6):** Concrete curb and gutter repairs were completed on Darwin Avenue. Concrete repair work was begun on Jackson Avenue between Glenside and Wildwood Avenue. The resurfacing of these streets will not be done until after WSSC completes water main replacement. WSSC's work is projected to be completed within a year. *(Public Works)*

**4. Dialogue on Pedestrian Safety Solutions - May 16 (City-wide):** The City of Takoma Park's Safe Roadways Committee and the Montgomery County Pedestrian Safety Committee will be co-sponsoring a community dialogue on a variety of pedestrian safety issues at 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 16 in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium. The discussion is open to the public and will provide residents and officials with an opportunity to learn about some of the safety challenges faced by the community, get information on current and proposed initiatives, and hear the results of the recent walkable communities report. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**5. Metropolitan Branch Trail Update (Ward 1):** The Montgomery County Conservation Corps will resume work on the Metropolitan Branch trail later this month, planting trees, completing the retaining wall, and installing fencing along Takoma Avenue. The work is estimated to take roughly 5 weeks. The trail is marked with small orange lines at regular intervals to show where the pavement will be narrowed. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**6. Emergency Preparedness Forum:** A community forum on emergency preparedness is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 9:30 - 11:30 p.m., at Montgomery College's Health Sciences Center, 7977 Georgia Avenue. Details available online at <http://www.takomapark.info/pd/posts/archives/000565.html>. *(Police)*

**7. AARP Driving Course:** The police and COP Team are sponsoring the AARP Driver Safety course for persons 50 years or older June 8 & 9, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Center. For details see <http://www.takomapark.info/pd/posts/archives/000560.html>. *(Police)*

**8. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 6):**

- Tenants residing at 8128 Lockney Avenue received a notice that their single family rental is being sold and have been advised they have the right to purchase the property. The asking price is \$310,000.

- The tenant residing at 8 Crescent Place has received a letter from the owner's agent informing him that the property is being sold for \$469,000. The tenant is aware of his rights under the law and will make a decision regarding purchase of the property within the seven days stipulated in the ordinance.

- The Hampshire Towers Tenants Association, Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC), and Tenacity Inc. came to an agreement last week, signing a contract to purchase the high rise rental property located at 7401 and 7333 New Hampshire Avenue. Closing is expected to occur on May 10, 2006. This is the first step in the long process of rehabilitating the property and converting one of the towers to a condominium while maintaining the other as rental. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**9. Traffic Enforcement:** Eighty percent of the week's traffic stops concluded with written citations, with stops distributed on secondary streets and major thoroughfares. Additional details were conducted over the past two weeks on streets in the X9 Beat described as having cut-through rush hour traffic. The numbers have shown inconclusive and these details will be continued. *(Police)*

**10. New Hampshire Avenue Redevelopment Tour (Wards 2, 3, and 6):** Staff led City Councilmembers and representatives from Montgomery and Prince George's County on a tour of the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor this Friday morning. The tour highlighted redevelopment opportunities among the multi-cultural retail hotspots the Corridor provides. City and County officials recognize the Corridor's future growth potential and have agreed to continue building multi-jurisdictional partnerships to guide this growth in an economically progressive and community-oriented direction. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**11. Taping the Tour:** City TV staff rode on the bus with the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor tour on Friday, May 5. Footage from this event will be featured in the June Snapshots. *(City TV)*

**12. Tenant Capacity Building Program (Wards 2 and 5):** Community organizers Rozanne Look and Mario Cristaldo continue to meet with the tenant groups at 8508-10 Flower Avenue and 701-03 Ethan Allen Avenue. Both groups are exploring their options to express an interest to purchase the properties or possibly work with the county and a non-profit organization to maintain the property as rental units. Additional meetings are scheduled to take place next week as the discussions continue. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**13. 8435 Piney Branch Road (Ward 5):** The City closed on the sale of this commercial property, located at Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road, on Thursday, April 27. The property, to be redeveloped for office and/or commercial space, was transferred to Kam and Siu Wong who own the Chinese restaurant, Beijing Delight, next door. The sale of the neighboring residential property has been delayed due to last minute underwriting concerns raised by the purchaser's lender regarding the condition of the property. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**14. Clean Up Day - Volunteers Needed in Old Takoma (Ward 1 and 3):** The Old Takoma Business Association and the Main Street Design Committee will be hosting a "clean-up" in Old Takoma this Saturday, May 6, 2006. Help tear down flyers, pick up trash, plant, and otherwise spruce up the area. Volunteers should meet at one of three locations - 4th and Blair, Laurel and Carroll Avenue, or Takoma Junction - at 9:00am on May 6th. HCD staff have assisted the Design Committee in the coordination of this event. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**15. Bike to Work Day - May 19 (City-wide):** Friday, May 16th, is Bike to Work Day! Organized by the Washington Area Bicyclist Coalition (WABA), in partnership with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Commuter Connections program, Bike to Work Day was developed several years ago to encourage commuters to ride their bikes to work. On Friday, May 19, a series of "pit stops" will be established across the metropolitan area, providing participants with breakfast, entertainment, and the opportunity to win prizes. Participants who register with WABA by this coming Friday, May 12 will receive a free T-shirt. Additional information can be found at <http://www.waba.org/new/BTWD06/index.php>. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**16. Officers in Training:** Six officers participated in Taser training, a one-afternoon course offered in-house. Taser is a less lethal secondary weapon that can be utilized to gain compliance with less chance for injury to suspects or officers. *(Police)*

**17. C-SAFE Academy:** Capt. Coursey and Sgt. Gilbert attended the first day of a four-day C-SAFE Academy offered at the Maryland Police Training Academy. *(Police)*

**18. Police Staff News:** Carolyn Pinkard, who has served the Department for more than 30 years, has retired from full-time service. She has taken a part-time position as a crossing guard. Kristian Pedersen was rehired as an officer and has completed state-required in-service training. He will be sworn in prior to the Council meeting on Monday, May 8 (7:15 p.m.). *(Police)*

**19. Journeys of the Heart Exhibit - Opening Reception (City-wide):** The Takoma Artists' Guild (TAG) will be hosting an opening reception for its spring show - Journeys of the Heart - this coming Sunday, May 7th from 3:00pm to 5:00pm in the Takoma Park Community Center. The exhibit can be viewed in the Richard Dempsey Memorial Gallery and the Atrium Gallery beginning May 1 and will run through the month of May. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**20. Poetry Reading - Open Reading (City-wide):** Don Berger, Takoma Park Poet Laureate, and the Arts and Humanities Commission will be hosting an open reading of poetry on Thursday, May 18 at 7:00pm in the Takoma Park Community Center. If you write poetry, please join us. We would love to hear your work. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact the Arts and Humanities Commission at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org) or 301.891.7224. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**21. Soccer Clinic:** The Takoma Park Outdoor Soccer Clinic behind Takoma Elementary is up and running. There are 17, 1st - 3rd graders kicking, running and chasing that ball from 3:45 - 4:45pm every Tuesday and Thursday. *(Recreation)*

**22. Tennis Clinic:** The Takoma Park Tennis Clinic is now in its second week. Once again, all 6 classes are filled to the brim with eager kids, grades 1-8, that learn the game after school at Takoma Park Middle School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Thirty-six kids are perfecting their backhand volleys as we speak! *(Recreation)*

**23. Softball League:** The Adult Coed Softball League opened play last Sunday, April 30th, at Lee Jordan Field. Games are held on Sundays at 9:30am at Lee Jordan and Ed Wilhelm Fields (excluding Mother's Day and Memorial Day). *(Recreation)*